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Report Lauds Student Link

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WASHINGTON — President Johnson Thursday upheld the Central Intelligence Agency's conduct in secretly providing millions of dollars to private U.S. organizations that operate abroad.

The President endorsed a preliminary finding by Undersecretary of State Nicholas Katzenbach that praised the CIA's support of the private groups and that said the agency's actions were in keeping "with national policies established by the National Security Council in 1952 through 1954."

Katzenbach indicated that these policies had been embraced by the administrations of presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson.

In releasing the report, Johnson appeared to be moving the position of his administration toward one of strong support for the beleagured CIA.

Only last week, a high official, speaking at the President's behest, said Johnson was "totally unaware" of the large CIA subsidy to the National Student Assn.

The revelation of the 14-year CIA-NSA link triggered a wave of protests and led directly to the exposure of a wide CIA network that pumped funds through private foundations into labor, educational, religious, political and research groups.

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